

of Cuba and the U.S. Mr. Ferrer paved the way for generations of Cuban singers to come and it is my hope that their music will continue to reach the hearts of Americans and people throughout the world.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an obituary from the August 8th edition of the New York Times.

[From the New York Times, August 8, 2005]

IBRAHIM FERRER, 78, CUBAN SINGER IN  
"BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB," DIES  
(By Ben Ratliff)

Ibrahim Ferrer, the Cuban singer whose life included one of popular music's most triumphant second acts, died on Saturday in Havana. He was 78. The cause was multiple organ failure, his manager, Carmen Romero, announced.

Mr. Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long-delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician's-eye view of Cuba, the film set up Mr. Ferrer as a particularly sympathetic figure—tall, distinguished and lively, an excellent bolero singer who used space and silence in his relaxed elegant delivery to increase the drama, a man who had been rolled over by history and was now simply trying to enjoy an absurdly lucky situation.

At the time that he was enticed out of retirement to make the album, Mr. Ferrer was living on a small state pension and shining shoes in Havana for extra money.

He was not interested in recording anymore; he had retired from singing in 1991.

"An angel came and picked me up and said, 'Chico, come and do this record,' "he said in 1998. "I didn't want to do it, because I had given up on music."

Born in 1927 at a social club dance in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba—his mother went into labor on a night out—Mr. Ferrer's first professional involvement with music came at age 13, a year after he became an orphan, when he joined a band, Los Jóvenes del Son.

Later he sang with groups that included Conjunto Sorpresa, the Orquesta Chapin Chovén (with which he had a local hit, "El Platanal de Bartolo," in 1955) and the Beny Moré orchestra, with which he was a background vocalist; in 1953 he began working with Pacho Alonso's band, Maravilla de Beltrán, in Santiago. The band later moved from Santiago to Havana and called itself Los Bocucos.

For most of his career Mr. Ferrer generally sang up-tempo numbers, guarachas and sones, not the slow romantic boleros, even though he loved them. But his chance finally came on "The Buena Vista Social Club," when Mr. Cooder and Juan de Marcos González, the album's musical director, persuaded him to sing songs like "Dos Gardenias," which he had learned decades before when singing with Moré.

In 1998, the Cuban Egrem label released "Tierra Caliente," an album of older songs he had made with Los Bocucos. In 1999 the British World Circuit label (with Nonesuch in the United States) released Mr. Ferrer's first solo album, and in 2003 his second, "Buenos Hermanos"; both were produced by Mr. Cooder. In "Buenos Hermanos" Mr. Cooder took more artistic liberties, stirring the very un-Cuban accordion and the gospel singing group the Blind Boys of Alabama into the mix.

Though by this time he was in his 70's, Mr. Ferrer won a Latin Grammy for Best New Artist in 2000. "Buenos Hermanos" won a

Grammy for Best Traditional Tropical Latin Album of 2003, but Mr. Ferrer was denied a visa to enter the United States for the awards ceremony last year.

His last performance in New York was in April 2003. He was on a European tour in the week leading up to his death.

Mr. Ferrer is survived by his wife, Caridad Díaz, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, Ms. Romero said.

## TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LORENZO HOMES ASSOCIATION

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 10, 2005, the San Lorenzo Homes Association in San Lorenzo, California will celebrate 60 years as one of the oldest homeowners' associations in the United States.

During World War II, thousands came to the San Francisco Bay Area to work in the shipyards. In response to the need for housing, David D. Bohannon purchased rich farmland south of the San Lorenzo Creek where abundant fruit and vegetable crops were grown.

On May 18, 1944, builders broke ground on the first home in the Village tracts, which launched the wartime construction of the planned community. Bohannon applied a mass production method, the reverse of the normal prefab process, by moving the factory to the housing site. Each worker was trained to do a single part of the job. The assembled houses rolled off the line at the rate of one every seven hours.

The first houses had a "war worker's room" with a separate entrance to help meet the housing shortage. The 1945 three-bedroom homes were priced at \$5,950. Some rented for \$55 per month. With the slogan "Every Lot a Garden Spot" and In-Door-Outdoor Living, San Lorenzo Village grew at the rate of 1,329 houses per project.

Land was set aside for schools, churches, stores, parks, restaurants, a movie theater and the Nimtez Freeway, which was built in 1953. The construction headquarters was turned into a playground, community hall and the San Lorenzo Homeowners' Association offices.

The Association is controlled by a board of directors elected annually on staggered terms of three years each. The first meeting was held on April 5, 1945. After a few months, with the number of homes increasing so rapidly, it became apparent that it was necessary to have paid employees to devote their full time to Homes' Association work.

Through the years, the Association, with its volunteer Board of Directors and professional management, has been successful in ensuring the appearance, safety, and financial accountability of San Lorenzo Village.

Since 1945, San Lorenzo Village has grown from its original 1,329 homes to 5,686. The value of San Lorenzo Village homes has increased over eight thousand percent over the past sixty years.

I have a personal connection to the San Lorenzo Homes Association. My wife, Deborah Roderick Stark, was born in San Lorenzo and her parents, Frank and Mary Roderick, are long-time residents and members of the Association.

On behalf of the Roderick and Stark families, I applaud the exemplary contributions of the San Lorenzo Homes Association. The Association has demonstrated its leadership to maintain the integrity of this planned community and its commitment to quality service delivery to meet the needs of Village residents.

## IN CELEBRATION OF 43 YEARS OF JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions that Jamaican Americans have made to our society and to join with them in celebrating their 43rd anniversary of independent rule on August 6, 2005.

Jamaicans have been immigrating to the United States for centuries and have undeniably left their mark on cities throughout our Nation. Their contributions can be seen at the center of our neighborhoods and industries, everywhere from New York to California. They are skilled business people, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and have produced some of our Nation's greatest leaders including former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, and basketball star Patrick Ewing.

Despite the many challenges that this group has faced both in Jamaica and the U.S. they continue to hold fast to the Jamaican spirit of perseverance and continue in an extraordinary way to defy the odds. Theirs is a history of an effort that while marked with a host of successes and some failures, just like all nations, has shown that Jamaica is in a much better position today than when it became the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to assume the responsibility of nationhood.

Jamaica's record has proven that a relatively small but powerful nation can take charge of its own affairs and be a vital and vibrant member of the international community. Instead of tearing itself apart as other developing and developed nations have done, Jamaica and Jamaicans have held firm through thick and thin.

Having earned its place among the best-known developing countries at the United Nations, whether in international diplomacy, culture or excellence in sports Jamaica has been able to move far forward. Today, its people enjoy some of the longest life spans in the Western Hemisphere, about 74 years, poverty has dropped dramatically in recent years, educational opportunities continue to escalate, demonstrating the nation's commitment to invest in its people's future.

Jamaica has come so very far in the last 43 years and I look forward to its continued growth and prosperity in the future. Jamaica and Jamaicans will always hold a special place in my heart. It is impossible to imagine New York or Harlem without the contributions of Jamaicans. They are an ever-present and important part of our community from whom a great deal of our Nation's diversity is derived.

I would like to submit the following statement from Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to commemorate this historic occasion.

INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE FROM THE MOST  
HON. P.J. PATTERSON, ON, PC, QC, MP  
PRIME MINISTER

AUGUST 6, 2005

My Fellow Jamaicans:

Every year at this time we pause to reflect on the progress we have made as a people in this great country we call home. In our National Anthem, we ask for the blessings and guidance of the Eternal Father on this land.

We know so well that God helps those who help themselves, but that none but ourselves can free our minds. We realize that it is by our own efforts we can rid ourselves not only from the obstacles of the past, but also dissipate the inertia that would prevent us from overcoming present difficulties. We have to create our own path to the future of which we dream—the future which we would want our children and their children to inherit.

More and more we have come to appreciate that Independence is not simply a single event that took place in August 1962 but a process which allows us to build a nation for ourselves.

Our Founding Fathers based the pursuit of Independence on the firm conviction that we can be the creators of our own destiny. In this changed, and still rapidly changing world of this twenty-first century, it becomes even more urgent that we hold on to that conviction.

We are, after all, a people of proven grit and resilience whether we reside at home or abroad. We must use these attributes to creatively explore our potential and the opportunities that exist for economic, social and spiritual growth and development. To do otherwise, is a defiance of commonsense and a devaluation of the gift of life we have been given.

Fellow Jamaicans:

You have a right to expect from your leaders and the society at large: proper healthcare; affordable housing; a sound education that can facilitate and ease the journey from childhood to adulthood.

You are right to expect opportunities for gainful employment which is sustained and adequate to meet the vicissitudes of life.

And it is right that you should want to have the assurance of individual safety and collective security since all such rights herald the great freedoms from hunger, from ignorance, from disease and from fear.

But none of these can be achieved without the strategic alliances we must make between each other with all the caring, trust and compassion that a civilized society demands of all who inhabit it.

Forty three years in the life of a nation is short compared to the four and more centuries of degradation and deprivation. Through the struggles, the wisdom, foresight and example of our Founding Fathers, we have developed, and continue to develop, even greater self-esteem and self-confidence.

We have seen over the years that, despite the challenges and inherited disadvantages, we are not only fit to rule ourselves but also able to make a remarkable contribution on the regional and international stage.

In today's competitive global economy comparative advantage rests on intellectual skills and the mastery of technology. It is for this reason, that I have been stressing the importance of investing in our human resources—in ourselves—through education.

Today, education is the most effective means of shaping values, attitudes, behaviours and skills. Education is the key driver of economic transformation. It is our solemn responsibility to equip the future generation with the thinking skills that will assure their individual growth and development and the creation of a habitable society.

It is for this reason, that I have been stressing the importance of investing in our

human resources—in our young students and adults—through education and training.

To do so, we are harnessing the resources to create an education system that is viable and relevant in the global marketplace.

The challenge is immense!

It is indeed a challenge for all Jamaicans: civil society; our private sector; the Church; the family in whatever form; our energetic and talented youth population; our workers and their trade unions; and, of course, our elected representatives.

Let us view ourselves as custodians of our nation's resources which we must invest in a broader purpose—the betterment of all our people.

This is a time for both celebration and renewal.

On this 43rd anniversary of our Independence, I once again summon every Jamaican in town or country, at home or overseas, to re-commit yourselves to giving to this our beloved country the loyalty, caring, dedication it so richly deserves from us all.

I wish everyone a peaceful and reflective Independence.

May God bless us all and bless Jamaica, this beautiful land we love.

#### IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROSALIE S. OBARA

#### HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect, admiration and much sorrow that I rise today to remember the life of Rosalie S. Obara. Rosalie was elected to the office of New Castle County Clerk of the Peace for a record seven terms, serving from 1969 to 1996. She loved life and took great pleasure in giving back to the community that brought her so much happiness. She was also indispensable to my own career, lending a helping hand in many elections.

In the 1930's, Rosalie moved to Delaware, where she would raise four kids with her husband Frank J. Obara, a former City Council President. During her seven terms as Clerk of the Peace, she would perform over 15,400 marriages.

In addition to her professional success, Rosalie left an indelible mark on her community. She was the co-founder and one-time president of the Americans of Polish Descent Cultural Society, as well as an officer with the Council of Polish Societies and Clubs of Delaware. Rosalie was also very active in her church, St. Hedwig, and served the Republican Party as a member of the State Committee and the New Castle County Republican Women's Club.

During her lifetime, Rosalie was the recipient of numerous honors, including the Order of the First State, the highest honor given by the State of Delaware. During the Eisenhower administration, she joined Mamie Eisenhower for tea in the White House. Rosalie will be remembered for her class and dignity.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to point to a 1996 quote from Rosalie that sums up her American Dream story, "I'm the daughter of immigrants. I survived the Depression. I had a limited education, but I made something of myself . . . I am glad I was able to help others." Rosalie Obara can rest in peace knowing that she was always able to help others with grace and elegance.

#### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure this is politically incorrect, but watching the President fly into the disaster area left by Hurricane Katrina and declare that the director of FEMA has done a good job should cause everyone of us to scream out "the President has no clue." As has become painfully obvious, the Bush administration's response to this fearsome natural disaster has been woefully late and utterly inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, this is not meant to be a partisan attack; it's important to remember that not all criticism of the President is for political advantage. Indeed one of the principal duties of the Congress, and one we have been shamefully inattentive to, is oversight of the executive branch and its utilization of taxpayer resources. And if there is no criticism of the disastrous response to this disaster, then we have no right to expect that this administration, or some later administration, will not similarly mishandle the future challenges our Nation is sure to face.

Americans rightfully should have expected that by now, every region of this country, every metropolitan area, every great city, would have a comprehensive disaster response and evacuation plan. It should not require a disaster or a cataclysm, or worse, a terrorist attack, nor should it be a mystery, or an improvisational effort to figure out how to preserve hospital and medical services, to know which facilities will be needed to provide emergency shelters, or to determine how food, water, medicine, blankets and cots and other essentials are going to be sent to designated distribution sites in the fastest, most efficient way.

It should be obvious, even to those who have habitually failed or refused to see the obvious, that once again, there is no plan. By diffidence and incompetence the Bush administration has lost the battle for New Orleans. We in this House need to ensure that we don't lose the battle for the survival of America.

Mr. Speaker, I never take joy in publicly criticizing my President, but questions about the failure of his leadership in the planning and implementation of rescue efforts—whether now or when the dust settles—have to be asked. If a country knows they're going to be attacked, whether by Mother Nature or by terrorists, they must be prepared. It is all too apparent that the federal government was not prepared for Hurricane Katrina. Sufficient troops and ample disaster relief supplies should have been on the ground in advance of the storm, and there should have been clear plans for additional resources to be brought in within a reasonable amount of time.

Moreover, in light of the vast scale of the devastation, and the immediacy of need, where was the innovative spirit and can-do attitude we Americans are so rightly famous for? Why not contract with Greyhound and America's other bus companies and use them to